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*Philadelphia*, April—September, 1878. Of botanical interest we note Thomas Meehan on "The law governing Sex." It is no new thing hereabout that *Acer rubrum* is in effect dioecious, but the observation of the checked growth of the fairly starting stamens or pistils is very interesting as showing a development caught in the act, and is similar to what occurs in *Silene inflata* as we pointed out years ago. Dr. J. Gibbons Hunt and Mr. Edward Potts throw some new light on the action of the glands in the Asclepiads. Dr. Hunt's observations were made on *Stapelia asterias*, the disagreeable odor of which, it seems, is, by its attraction for flies, a means to cross-fertilization. "Continuous observation for several hours, under a lens which took in a large field of view, revealed many flies eagerly applying their tongues all over the petals and essential organs, apparently eating with almost intoxicated relish the attractive excretion covering those parts. This banquet was indulged in in safety until their tongues came in contract with one or more of five black spots situated near and alternate with the stamens, when, with amazing quickness, the fly was seized and firmly held by the tongue, a helpless prisoner. Now a struggle commenced, and if the fly was small and not vigorous, he remained in the trap, but, if large and strong, his efforts to escape were successful, and he flew away dragging from its position the black sensitive spot and also the pollen masses, two of which are attached to each trap. This adhesion of the fly's tongue to these black spots is not caused by any cementing liquid, but it is fairly caught by an organic structure, the action resembling that of a common steel trap used for catching rats." "The organ at the juncture of the pollen masses is the sensitive trap, and when touched, however lightly, by the fly or other object (as a hair for example), the *opposing, separated, parallel, and hard edges instantaneously close like pincers*, and the prey is secured." The words we have italicized contain the novelty in Dr. Hunt's observation, and seem to indicate a sensibility in the so-called gland, the action of which gland in our common Asclepiads has often puzzled us. Dr. Hunt's attention was called to the subject by Mr. Isaac Burk, and at the suggestion of the Doctor, Mr. Potts examined such species of the genus *Asclepias* as were within his reach. His statement is that when a fine hair touched "the sensitive inner surface of a gland" it caused "it instantly to contract." He notices that "the glands remain open and susceptible long after plucking the flowers." The figure he gives is not so decisive as that of the *Stapelia*, and allows of mechanical action as a possible explanation.

**§ 284. Parry's Herbarium.**—"Dr. C. C. Parry, of Davenport, Ia., has deposited in the Academy of Science, at that city, his large botanical collection of thirty thousand specimens, the labor of thirty-six years."

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The Club meets regularly the second Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7:30 P. M. Botanists are invited to attend. DR. THURBER the President of the Club, may be found at 245 Broadway.